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## Alexandria Students Kick Butts

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On Tuesday night, the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria honored three students from Cora Kelly Elementary School for winning the "Say NO to 2nd Hand Smoke" poster competition at the Alexandria City Council meeting. The competition was judged by Police Chief Earl L. Cook, former State Delegate and artist Marian Van Landingham and NBC reporter Julie Carey. Over 150 students from Patrick Henry and Cora Kelly Elementary Schools submitted posters. Evan Paez won first place. Jennifer Arias won second place. Makiah Rice won third place. The winners and other finalist drawings are displayed at City Hall this week. All of the students' drawings will be displayed around the community in May for "Smoke Free Summer, Smoke Free Lives" week.



Second place winner in the "Say NO to 2nd Hand Smoke" poster competition, artwork by Jennifer Arias. (Photo: Regan Kireilis)

"I was an Alexandria City Public School student and have never smoked in my life," Mayor Bill Euille told the students. "I hope none of you ever smoke either."

The poster competition is the first step of the Partnership's "Smoke Free Homes and Cars Campaign". Given the negative health effects of second hand smoke on children, the Partnership is asking parents and guardians to smoke outside and pledge to keep their homes and cars smoke free.



Winner of the "Say NO to 2nd Hand Smoke" poster competition, artwork by Evan Paez. (Photo: Regan Kireilis)

## March 25 is Kick Butt Day

Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism that empowers youth to take action against Big Tobacco at more than 2,000 events from coast to coast. Students from schools across the country hold different events and activities that call attention to the problems caused tobacco usage and

attempts to market to youth.

According to the 2010 Kick Butt Day Guide: "Big Tobacco's lies are everywhere. They're in advertising messages like 'Be Kool', 'Pleasure for Wherever' and 'Light and Luscious'. They're in the magazines we read, the movies we watch, even the stores where we shop and they are killing nearly half a million Americans every year. The tobacco industry addicts more than 1000 youth every day - and one in three of them will die prematurely because of tobacco use. "So what does Big Tobacco see when they look at teens? They see 'replacement customers' for the smokers they kill every day. As a 1981 Philip Morris marketing report noted, 'Today's teenager is tomorrow's potential regular customer,'" the guide said.



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Third place winner from the "Say NO to 2nd Hand Smoke" poster competition, artwork by Makiah Rice. (Photo: Regan Kireilis)

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